6th August 1955]

" (c) No allegation against the Revision Officer by the tax-payers has been received by Government so far."

Police officers sent to Pondicherry.

* 1977 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many officers of the Police department have been sent to Pondicherry Territory; and

(b) at whose request they were sent?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Sixteen.

" (b) At the request of the Government of India."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Police Officers who were deputed to Pondicherry are going to be withdrawn at the end of the year? If so, I would request the Government to retain those officers there itself in view of their yeoman services rendered for the maintenance of law and order during their stay in Pondicherry."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Provisionally these Police Officers have been lent. What is to happen to them later on is under the consideration of the Central Government and they will take decision."

Pepper cultivation.

* 1978 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken in regard to pepper cultivation with special reference to the following points :—

(i) to increase the quantity of pepper produced;

(ii) to improve the quality of pepper;

(iii) to increase the extent of lands under pepper cultivation; and

(iv) to see that the cultivator gets maximum price?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (i) to (iv) A statement[*] is placed on the table of the House.

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The agriculturists are put to a great loss in view of the fluctuations in the price obtained for pepper. In view of this fact, may I know whether the Government will examine this question and take necessary steps to see that the price of pepper is maintained at a particular level? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" One of the measures undertaken by the Government is, Sir, to have the export duty reduced on black pepper from 30 per cent *ad valorem* or Rs. 65 per swt., whichever is lower to 15 per cent *ad valorem*. This measure will lead to greater export of pepper and that will lead to the improvement of prices obtained for pepper."

* Printed as Appendix II on pages 667–668 infra.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The reduction of export duty as mentioned by the Hon. Minister has not helped to check the continuous and steep fall in the price of pepper. So, will the Government recommend to the Central Government a still further reduction of the export duty? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government will examine that suggestion."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the incidence of ' pollu ' disease has caused the death of a very large number of vines in Malabar district. It is alleged that the Government have found some remedial measures to combat this disease. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether these remedial measures are kept secret or whether it is suggested to pepper growers to adopt them whenever there is an incidence of ' pollu ' disease? As far as my information goes no propaganda has been done in the district of Malabar about these remedial measures although there is a research station at Taliparamba in my constituency and researches have been carried on there in this connexion."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government are then and there communicating to the persons concerned the results of researches. In the same way the cause of incidence of ' pollu ' disease has been found out and that has been made available to all ryots and interests concerned."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sometime ago, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that attempts were being made to grow pepper not only in Malabar but also in other parts of the State. May I know whether there has been any success in that direction? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About the successful growing of pepper in other parts it is not yet time to assess the results."

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, it is stated in the statement placed on the table of the House in answer to the main question that the harvesting of pepper before it attains full maturity is generally done by growers due to economic stress and the growers have been advised by the Agricultural department to avoid harvesting pepper before it attains full maturity in the interests of better quality as well as securing a better price for their produce. Are the Government aware that mere advice alone will not help the agriculturists who are under economic stress? Will the Government take steps to give loans to agriculturists through co-operative societies by liberalizing the rules, if required, for the purpose? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" If representations are submitted to Government, they will be considered with all sympathy."

6th August 1955]

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether pepper comes under Commercial Crops Marketing Act and if not, will the Government be pleased to bring it under the provisions of that Act? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice. I would also look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that peasants generally harvest pepper before they attain full maturity due to economic difficulties and sell it to speculators. The Hon. Minister just now said that he would look into the question of giving help to them through co-operative societies. May I inform the Hon. Minister that co-operative societies give loans to the peasants provided they own lands and are assessed to land revenue? Most of the lands where pepper is grown are waste lands and are not assessed to land revenue. So, the peasants are not able to enjoy the benefits of taking loans through co-operative societies. May I know whether the Government will take special measures to provide cheap credit facilities to pepper growers? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall look into the matter."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Since this pepper is a dollar earning commodity, will the Madras Government be pleased to appoint a Special Officer to go into the conditions of pepper growers and report to the Government how pepper cultivation can be carried on on proper lines? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall examine that suggestion."

District Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.

* 1979 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR (on behalf of Sri S. P. Thangavelu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government proposed to increase the bed-strength of the Maternity ward in the District Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, in 1948; and

(*b*) why a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 sanctioned in 1948 for this purpose has not been spent for that purpose?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) No such sanction was accorded by the Government."

Closure of the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar.

* 1980 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar, has been closed from 7th February 1955; and